

TemerTalk



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June 2024

Inside this issue

Open gardens and a garden party • Anniversaries • Bingo
and all your parish news

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

June 2024

Published by the churches of the
Teme Valley South Group
and delivered free to every household

Designed and typeset by
Sandra Griffiths
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ronsmum@icloud.com

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Editor:
Sandra Griffiths
Grey Gables, St Michaels
Tenbury Wells WR15 8TW
Telephone 07482 482629
ronsmum@icloud.com

Distribution:
Alison and Keith Tompsett
(Stoke Bliss & Kyre)
Averil Opperman
(The Hanleys, Eastham and Rochford)
Sue Softly (Stanford)

Priest-in-charge
Rev'd Julia Curtis
Telephone 01886 853286
revjuliacurtis@gmail.com

Parish website
www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

Items for inclusion should be
sent to Sandra Griffiths
by the 18th of the preceding month
and will be included subject to space

Dear Readers

Embracing Hope and Unity

As we step into June, the world around us is bursting with life and the promise of new beginnings. This time of year invites us to reflect on our faith and the ways we can live out its teachings in our daily lives, especially in light of recent events.

One pressing issue that has captured global attention is the environment. World Environment Day on 5th June is a powerful reminder of our responsibility to care for God's creation. The growing impact of climate change challenges us to act. Inspired by Church leaders and others all round the world, we are called to protect our planet. Small actions, like reducing waste and supporting sustainable practices, are meaningful ways to honour this commitment. Let's take this month to think about how we can be better stewards of the earth, nurturing the beauty and life that God has entrusted to us.

June also offers a moment to ponder the importance of unity and reconciliation. The commemorations on the 6th June of the 80th anniversary of D-Day remind us of the strength found in coming together. As Christians, we are urged to be peacemakers. Ephesians 4:32 tells us, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you". This month, let's reflect on how we can heal the divisions in our lives and communities, striving for unity and understanding.

Father's Day, celebrated on 15th June, is another special time for reflection. It's an opportunity to honour the fathers and father figures who have shaped our lives with their love and guidance. This celebration echoes the steadfast love that God, our heavenly Father, shows us every day. In a world that often feels fractured, the unconditional love of a father can be a source of great comfort and strength. Let's take the time to show

Continued on page 3

This month's cover picture is of
Hannah and John Griffiths's garden
at Bank House, Stoke Bliss, one of the
gardens taking part in
Stoke Bliss Open Gardens on 16th June



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Teme Valley South Contacts

Priest-in-charge: Julia Curtis 01886 853286

Assistant Curate: Jen Jones 07749 977821

LLM Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

Retired clergy: Robert Barlow, Sally Jones

Churchwardens

Eastham: Celia Adams 01584 781258

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Stoke Bliss & Kyre:

Hanleys: Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

Stanford: Alexandra Winnington 07891 346783

Pastoral Team

Stanford: Lesley Dean 01886 853295

Hanleys:

Stoke Bliss:

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

Eastham: Mel Williams 01584 781284

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Softly

Village Hall Bookings

Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

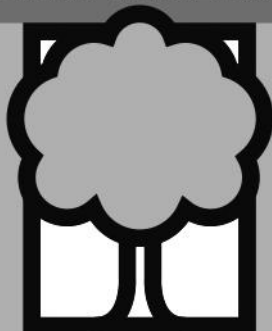
Eastham – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673

Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

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Parish news

From the Registers

Funerals

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to three people during the month of May. Our services were as follows:

Arthur Bernard Jenkins on Tuesday 23rd April at St Mary's, Kyre followed by burial in the cemetery.

Olive Mary Powell on Tuesday 30th April at St Mary's, Kyre followed by burial in the cemetery.

Harvey John Merrick on Thursday 16th May at All Saints, Hanley William followed by burial in the new churchyard.

Reunited with relatives and held in God's love. May they rest in peace.

Iona inspired services

We loved our pilgrimage to Iona last September and wanted to bring a little of Iona to the Teme Valley. So you are invited to join us at Hanley Broadheath village hall. The third of our Iona style services is on 9th June at 4pm where you will find a warm welcome. These services involve a pattern of prayer, singing and imaginative engagement with scripture that reflects our life together as community as we celebrate God's presence in our lives. Do give them a try.

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Teme Valley Tots

The group meets weekly in Rochford Village Hall on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon. We are now running at capacity, so would ask any new families to please get in touch with Eve at assistantvspcc@gmail.com to be added to the waiting list.

Confirmation

We are hoping to have a confirmation service at a church in the rural mission area this summer. If you are interested in taking this step or if you have any children (usually ten years and older) who would like to be confirmed do get in touch with Rev'd Julia in person, on 01886 853286 or by email revjuliacurtis9@gmail.com to find out more.

Rev'd Jen Jones becomes a priest!

On 29th June at Worcester Cathedral Rev'd Jen will be ordained to the priesthood. This promises to be a joyous service which starts at 2pm. There is no reserved seating available, but if you wish to go along and support Jen you are most welcome to.

The following day at 11am in Stoke Bliss church Rev'd Jen will preside at Holy Communion for the first time and all are welcome to the service. There will be a bring and share lunch at Stoke Bliss & Kyre village hall afterwards.

If you have any queries, requests to share lifts to the Cathedral or offers of food for the celebration lunch please contact Eve at assistantvspcc@gmail.com. Please mark your email 'Jen's ordination' so we can find it easily.

Rev'd Julia

Dear Readers

Continued from page 1

our appreciation and also consider how we can extend this nurturing love to others, embodying patience, kindness, and support.

As we journey through June, let these themes of environmental care, unity, and fatherly love inspire us. In our actions and reflections, may we find ways to live out our faith more deeply, embracing the hope and renewal that this season brings. With God's guidance, let us work together to create a more compassionate and united world.

Pete Thorp

Rochford 49 Club

*Congratulations to this month's
£25 winners!*

Wednesday winners

24th April	No 40	Chris Cox
1st May	No 36	Not sold
8th May	No 36	Not sold
15th May	No 37	Not sold

Saturday winners

20th April	No 32	Andrew Barbé
27th April	No 53	Not sold
4th May	No 10	Not sold
11th May	No 22	Gill Smith
18th May	No 29	Rosemary Ayres

There are still plenty of numbers available – why not join in? It's just £1 per draw and the profits are split between Rochford church and the village hall – plus you get two chances each week to win £25!

Remember, you must be in it to win it!
Ring Gill Smith on
07815 030050

TemeTalk

deadline for the July issue is 18th June

Teme Valley Tote

All your subscriptions have now been gathered in. As we didn't have an April draw, we now have two draws, one for April and one for May.

April's draw, the first in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 2nd May to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

- £50 – **Nicky Webb** of Eastham (No 260)
- £30 – **Family Burgoyne** of Stanford (No 503)
- £20 – **Mrs Gwyn-Jones** of Stoke Bliss (No 843)

May's draw, the second in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 2nd May to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners(all from Knighton) are:

- £50 – **Mr and Mrs Jonathon Spilbury** (No 665)
- £30 – **Mrs P Bunn** (No 651)
- £20 – **Duane Hubbard** (No 719)

You can still take part in this year's series of monthly draws if you contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com.

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Rochford News

Rochford Garden Party

The Rochford Garden Party is on Sunday 23rd June from 2 to 5pm at Rochford House, by kind permission of Simon and Vittoria Thornley. Enjoy a quintessential English garden party with an afternoon stroll around this beautiful garden, look at some classic cars, maybe a game of croquet or other garden games.

Complete the afternoon with a delicious cream tea, add a glass of fizz for a little extra luxury and listen to serene music from wonderful pianist Richard Errington. A unique and very special afternoon. Entry just £5, tea £10 to include sandwiches, quiche, sausage roll, cakes, scone with jam and cream with tea or coffee and a glass of fizz or Pimms.

Booking for afternoon tea with Ann on 01584 781317 is essential.

Rochford Fête

Rochford Fête, Flower Festival and Fun Dog Show will be on Sunday 14th July. The Flower Festival will be in the church and the fête will be on the riverside field next to the church, by kind permission of Dr Lear and the Adams family.

The Flower Festival will be coordinated by Jennifer Gledhill and will provide a lovely addition to the afternoon with an opportunity to decorate our beautiful old church.

Please let us know if you can help with the event or if you can make any donations for the cake stall, tombola, white elephant, plant and book stalls.

Rochford church services

It was great to see so many people at the choral evensong on 5th May. Many thanks to the TVS choir under Chloe Kenrick's enthusiastic direction. The June service is an all-age service on 23rd June at 10am. All are welcome.



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Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 25th June, 30th July, 27th August, 24th September and 29th October. Everyone is welcome. Booking for lunches is essential and takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. As food prices are rising the price of lunch is increased to just £7. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 5th October – the ever popular Big Breakfast

Sunday 13th October – Harvest Festival: church service at 5pm and harvest supper at 6.30pm

Friday November 8th – Rochford Quiz

Saturday 30th November – Musical evening

Church flower rota

Amy Jones, thank you.

Contacts

Ann on 01584 781317

Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

Andrew Barbé

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email: Claire.tva-accounts@outlook.com

Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Tenth anniversary of the village hall

We will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the opening of Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall on Saturday 1st June at 4pm at the hall. Please join us for a barbecue, live music, children's games and a cash bar. There will be a free glass of bubbles too! Please let us know if you are coming at sbkvillagehall@gmail.com or 01885 410368.



The next neighbourhood lunch will be on
Thursday 13th June

at **Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall**

and on the second Thursday of every month

12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm

Two courses plus refreshments

To book your place please call 07396 813137
or email sbklunch@gmail.com

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Louise Gibbs – 07866 511488
louisegibbs11@gmail.com

Open afternoons at Hollow Meadow ...

Hollow Meadow orchid weekend is on 1st and 2nd June from 2 to 5pm each day. If the meadow is still very wet it will be cancelled so please let Maggie know if you hope to come and she can contact you. Last year there were 350 marsh orchids on the meadow and hopefully we will have a similar show this year if they have not gone over or are still to come by then. In any event there are plenty of other flowers in the meadow to enjoy in your stroll around.

... and social media links

Guardians of Hollow Meadow CIC want to develop social media links. As no-one on the steering group has any claims to those skills, we would like to hear from people who have the enthusiasm and expertise to do this.

Our current idea is to have a partially public and mainly private group where we can share events, photos of the meadow and activities and possibly a blog/website.

If you are that person or know of anyone who may be interested please get in contact via hollowmeadow23@gmail.com.

Maggie Kingston

Social & Pub Night

Friday 28th June

Bar opens at 7, supper served at 8pm

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Supper £5 (optional), dessert £2.50 (optional)

Reserve your meal with Julia on
sbkvillagehall@gmail.com or 01885 410368

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Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

June – Helen Matravers

Eastham Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 5th June at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. Come along and have a cup of coffee, win a raffle prize and have a catch up. This month's activity is swap a card part 2, as this was very popular last month.

The rota is:

Wednesday 5th June – Nicky Webb

Wednesday 3rd July – Stella and Tony Wood

New pictures for the Memorial Hall

Entries are invited for pictures of Eastham to be judged in the summer with the winners being made into canvases to decorate the hall. Get snapping. More to follow.

Longest day barbecue

There will be a barbecue on Friday 21st June at 6.30pm in the garden at Eastham Memorial Hall, organised by the Friends of the Fête. Burgers and a cash bar – please bring a pudding.

This is a warm-up for Eastham Fête on 18th August. Come along and find out what is new this year, what will be the same (because it works) and how you can help.

Your village needs you!

As usual we are now appealing for help at the Fête on 18th August. It is a long weekend but a great feeling when the fête has been a success and you have seen all those happy visitors. We need books, cakes, plants, quality bric-a-brac and prizes for the tombola please.

If you haven't received your produce show schedule or to find out about helping or donating, please contact us on easthamfete@gmail.com.

The growing season has been slow to start but don't despair, the plants will catch up and we are all in the same boat! You could have that prize-winning vegetable in your garden already. Come along and join in, it will be a great day.

Bingo at Eastham Memorial Hall

on Saturday 8th June at 6pm for eyes down at 6.30. Book a table to secure a spot – phone or text Tammy on 07747 638976. £1 per game. Prizes include a lunch voucher, bouquet of flowers and a painting, all donated by local businesses. Proceeds to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Race Night

at Eastham Memorial Hall on Saturday 6th July at 6 for 6.30pm. Can't get to Cheltenham or Ascot? Come along for a night at the races! Snacks and a cash bar. Contact Tammy on 07747 638976 by phone or text to book a place. Proceeds to Eastham Memorial Hall.

Eastham bells

The bells will ring out for peace on **6th June**, the 80th anniversary of D-Day. They will ring as close as possible to 6.30pm in line with bells across the country and the world.

On **18th August** at around midday the Lille-shall Bellringers will ring a quarter peal (about 45 minutes) in memory of the Wylde family, Ron, Gordon and Donna, thanks to Julie Hartridge.

Eastham Memorial Hall AGM

This took place on Tuesday 21st May. The accounts were presented with the report of the independent examiner, Barbara Selkirk ACCA. For a copy of the annual report please visit the Charity Commission website and look for Charity No 1177355, Eastham Memorial Hall.

The trustees for the coming year are Mike Palfrey, Simon Neary, Beryl Lewis, Andy Chapman and Celia Adams. The parish council trustee is Michael Adams.

Teme Valley South Tote

Thanks to everyone who joined in. We sold 97 tickets (£970) and already results are looking good on this side of the river.

Eastham Memorial Hall available for hire

The hall is available for hire. There is a fully fitted kitchen and bar area and a smaller room. The hire charges are set out on the website – go to www.easthammemorialhall.org.uk. For further information please contact Mike Palfrey on mike.palfrey@easthammemorialhall.org.uk or 07976 854267. For bookings please email Helen on bookings@easthammemorialhall.org.uk or call 07580 158673.

Celia Adams

Sponsor the front cover

For details of how to sponsor the front cover of TemeTalk email ronsmum@icloud.com or phone 07482 482629

Hanley Happenings

Coast to Coast

On Tuesday 13th August Michael Gardner, his son Adam, his grandson Alex and of course Percy (the giant golden retriever) will start walking the Coast to Coast Path from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hoods bay in North Yorkshire. They hope to cover the first and most difficult section, 90 miles, in six days with Carole acting as sherpa between overnight accommodation.

They are doing this to raise funds for a men's mental health charity based in Didcot where Adam now lives. All three have had or are still having serious health issues and appreciate how little there is out there to support men's wellbeing.

If you feel able to donate to this worthy cause please visit the Just Giving page that Adam has created. It also gives a link to The Cornermen website. www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Mike-Adam-Alex-Cornermen.

Save the date!

28th July – Songs of Praise and Strawberry Teas at 4pm at Hanley Childe church

10th August – Dog Show and Summer Family Barbecue

18th August – Pop-up Waffle Van

21st September – Pakory Shakory Indian Pop-up Takeaway and Bar



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Nice weather for ducks!

In the recent wet weather the residents of Bell Lane have watched with interest the development of a wetlands area on the corner of Bell Lane and Rectory Road. In a totally unprecedented transformation we have seen the waterlogged land turn into a lake! To date we have seen heron, Canada geese, mallards and today a family of ducklings. If the weather continues we hope to see a passing swan or even an osprey! But seriously, with a predicted hot summer we could soon be looking at a desert!

Farewell to Jen

Sadly this week we say goodbye to Jen, a much loved "friend" of initially Digger and more recently Percy. Whilst she usually spurned their advances she did on occasion deign to greet them nose to nose! She could always be seen 'guarding' the farmyard at the top of Rectory Road and helping out with farm duties. Our thoughts are with Paul and Verley at this sad time.

Tractor breakfast

Plans are afoot for a vintage tractor breakfast with tractors welcome on the field.

Carole Gardner



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Thursday 13th June

6 to 7pm

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Please bring mowers, strimmers etc



TemeTalk deadline 18th June

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Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Services in Stanford

Sunday 2nd June

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am
Choral Evensong (with Teme Valley South Choir) at 4pm

Sunday 7th July

Deanery combined communion at Hartlebury Castle at 10am (instead of the usual service at Stanford)
Choral Evensong (with Teme Valley South Choir) at 4pm

Future events

We have several events in mind for the spring including a wine tasting. If you have any other ideas for events, please let us know.

AGM of Area Church Committee

Although all parishioners were invited to the meeting on 2nd May, we had a very disappointing attendance.

The meeting reviewed the past year with reports from Julia, Robin and Tracey.

Alexandra Winnington was elected as our new churchwarden to replace Robin. Anthony Winnington was nominated and elected to represent us on the Teme Valley South Parochial Church Council (PCC). Andy Nicol was also nominated and elected for a second term on the Teme Valley South PCC. Alexandra is our third nominee to the PCC as she is our churchwarden. In addition Ange Jordan, Cecilia Dean and Tracey Dewis were elected to the ACC. Julia Curtis is an ex-officio member. Tracey agreed to continue as our treasurer. Thanks to Robin and Lesley who resigned from both the ACC and the PCC. Thanks to all who bought food and drink.

We wish Alexandra every success as our new churchwarden.

AGM of Stanford with Orleton Village Hall Committee

Everyone in the parish of Stanford with Orleton is welcome to attend this meeting at 8pm on Thursday 13th June. The Committee is always looking for volunteers to help with the management of the Hall and assisting with events. Please try to come!

New lights

We have had new energy saving lights installed – we hope that you do not notice a difference but our electricity bill will be considerably reduced.

Payaz debit/credit card reader

Recently we reached £200 in donations since the reader was installed at the beginning of the year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Tenbury Food Bank

The box in the lobby continues to be used – thank you for all who have contributed. Please keep your donations coming.

St Mary's church

St Mary's is now open every day from dawn to dusk. The front door will be open (please do not shut) and the main door will be closed but unlocked. Please visit and sign the visitors book and leave any donations you wish in cash or by using the Payaz Card Reader. We are getting visitors from all over the world who are delighted to have the church open and comment on its beauty.

Volunteers please – again

We still need volunteers for the Area Church Committee. Robin (01886 853295) is happy to explain what is involved and you are welcome to attend one of our meetings, so that you can see what it is like. We still need people to organise and assist.

Robin Dean



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The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 20th June at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start, when Wayne Davies will be speaking to us. Wayne has supported the Filling Station for many years and serves God in the Ludlow and Hereford Diocese as Intergenerational Missioner. We look forward to hearing his message to us.

We look forward to your joining us for this evening of fellowship, worship, teaching and refreshments. If you are not on our mailing list and would like further information or details about our meetings please contact me on kate.harley6@gmail.com.

Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, Tuesdays 1pm and 2.15pm. Contact Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com for details or a taster session. Summer session starts on 9th April.
- Yoga, ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. Wednesdays at 10am. Taster sessions available.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. Wednesdays at 12 noon, just turn up.
- Kung Fu, Adam on 07720 643524, for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am.



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Harriett Baldwin MP can help constituents with a wide range of issues.

To contact Harriett, please write to her at the House of Commons, email harriett.baldwin.mp@parliament.uk or call her constituency office on 01684 585 165.

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Croquet – the quintessential summer game

The lawns of Broadwas Croquet Club are buzzing again following a prolonged close season caused by persistent rain.

The club is looking forward to further success in local and national competitions this year and in June is competing in the World Croquet Federation's 2024 European GC Club League to be held at Telč in Czechia (the former Czech Republic).

But whether you are competitive or would just like to take up a relaxing sport and meet new people, Broadwas Croquet Club can accommodate you. The club is situated in a serene spot overlook-

ing the Malverns and is keen to welcome new members. We have members from Worcester, Malvern and surrounding villages but would like to see more from Tenbury and the Teme valley. The cost of playing croquet is very modest and it is a sport that isn't taxing physically.

The club is holding a free open day on Saturday 8th June from 1 to 4pm for anyone who would like to try out the game. The club also holds regular taster sessions for newcomers.

For more information, call Fran Wall on 07914 083747 or visit www.broadwascroquetclub.org.uk.

Charity begins at home

This is rather a sad story ...

I have a friend who lives in Bedfordshire and three or four times a year we meet for lunch in Banbury, which is about halfway.

Next to the car park in Banbury is a Salvation Army shop, so sometimes I drop in a donation. The last time I went I took some unwanted items including a decanter and two glasses which I had rescued from the skip. I had washed them and they weren't cracked or chipped so I thought they might be good for a couple of pounds, even though charity shops always seem to be full of glasses.

So Jenny and I had lunch, caught up with our

news and put the world to rights. And I drove home feeling pleased that I had given some things to the charity shop which would otherwise have been thrown away.

Several days later, for some reason I opened the drawer where the decanter and glasses had been while they waited for their trip to Banbury, and there, at the bottom of the drawer, was the decanter's stopper.

So if you have a decanter without a stopper which you bought in the Salvation Army shop in Banbury ... don't come to me. I put the stopper in the bin.

SG

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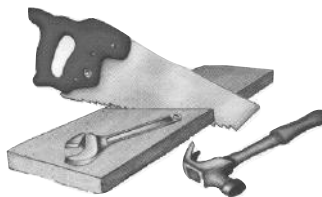
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D-Day – 6th June 1944

6th June 2024 is the 80th anniversary of D-Day – but why is D-Day important?

On 6th June 1944, Allied forces launched a combined naval, air and land assault on Nazi-occupied France, the start of operation Overlord.

Just after midnight on 6th June, Allied airborne troops began dropping behind enemy lines. Their job was to blow up bridges, sabotage railway lines, and take other measures to prevent the enemy from rushing reinforcements to the invasion beaches. Hours later, the largest amphibious landing force ever assembled began moving through the storm-tossed waters toward the beaches.

By nightfall about 160,000 Allied troops were ashore with nearly a million more men on the way that summer.

The invasion, if successful, would drain German resources and block access to key military sites. Securing a bridgehead in Normandy would allow the Allies to establish a viable presence in northern Europe for the first time since the Allied evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940.

A command team led by American General Dwight D Eisenhower was formed in December



1943 to plan the naval, air and land operations. Deception campaigns were developed to draw German attention – and strength – away from Normandy.

By 1944, over 2 million troops from over 12 countries were in Britain in preparation for the invasion. On D-Day, Allied forces consisted primarily of American, British and Canadian troops but also included Australian, Belgian, Czech, Dutch, French, Greek, New Zealand, Norwegian, Rhodesian and Polish naval, air or ground support.

Overlord did not bring an end to the war in Europe, but it did begin the process through which victory was eventually achieved. By the end of August 1944, the German Army was in full retreat from France, but by September Allied momentum had slowed. The Germans regrouped and launched a failed but determined counter-offensive in the Ardennes in December 1944. This defeat sapped German manpower and resources and allowed the Allies to resume their advance towards Germany.

Incidentally, the term D-Day is used by the Armed Forces to refer to the beginning of an operation. The 'D' simply stands for 'day'.



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Eton mess roulade



A vanilla roulade filled with strawberries, cream and meringues, this Eton mess roulade is the perfect summer pud to share with friends.

Serves 6-8

Ingredients

4 large free-range eggs, separated
75g golden caster sugar, plus extra to dust
75g self-raising flour
75g whole blanched almonds or unsalted pistachios, toasted in a hot dry pan and whizzed in a small food processor – or use pre-ground nuts
1 tsp vanilla extract

For the Eton mess filling

400g ripe strawberries, half chopped
1-2 tbsp icing sugar (optional)
300ml double cream
4 meringue nests, crumbled

Method

Heat the oven to 200°C fan/gas 7. Using an electric mixer, whisk the egg yolks and caster sugar in a bowl for 5-6 minutes until thick and creamy and the beaters leave a ribbon pattern on the surface of the mixture when lifted. Gently fold in the flour, toasted nuts and vanilla.

In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites to soft peaks (the peaks should flop over when you lift out the beaters). Add a spoonful of the whites to the cake batter and fold in briskly using a large spoon to loosen the mixture; fold in the rest in gen-

tle figure-of-eight movements – you don't want to overmix and knock all the air out. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin, level the top, then bake for 12-15 minutes until the sponge is risen, golden and springy to the touch.

Dust the sheet of baking paper with caster sugar. When the sponge is baked, use oven gloves to turn it out onto the paper. Roll up the sponge from the short end like a swiss roll while still warm, rolling the paper too so it stays between the sponge layers, then leave to cool.

For the filling, whizz the chopped strawberries (with the icing sugar if they're a bit sharp) until smooth. Whip the cream to soft peaks in a bowl using a balloon whisk or electric mixer – be careful not to over-whip as it will thicken when you fold in the strawberries/sauce/meringue. Slice most of the remaining strawberries, keeping a few halves to garnish, then gently swirl the slices into the cream with the strawberry sauce and most of the crumbled meringue.

Carefully unroll the cooled sponge, then spread with the Eton mess mixture and roll up like a swiss roll again. Top with extra meringue pieces, then serve on a platter with the reserved strawberries and any leftover Eton mess on the side.

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Bible study group

We are a small group which meets each Friday morning from 10am to 12 noon to talk about and reflect on scripture.

We have just begun exploring the Book of Acts, which is a fascinating account written by Luke, the same Luke who wrote a Gospel, of the formation of the early Christian church.

We are using a study guide by Phyllis J Le Peau which is divided into sessions covering each chapter of Acts. The study guide contains a range of questions to guide on our journey through Acts based on observation, interpretation and application and it is not overly theological.

If you would like join us on this exploration or find out more then please contact Rev'd Jen Jones by email at tvscurat@gmail.com.

Deadline 18th June

Please note this is the *last* day for contributions – the sooner you send your items to the editor, the more chance there is that they will be included

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Making new meadows

Did you know that we have lost 97% of our species-rich grasslands? Otherwise known as wildflower or hay meadows, these habitats are incredibly valuable for wildlife and are also very beautiful (though I admit to being biased).

Severn Rivers Trust has funding to create meadows in the Kyre Brook catchment this year. There is no limit on how small an area can be (so it could be a field margin or a buffer strip along a watercourse) and we currently have funding for up to 2ha of meadow. Please get in touch if you would like to know more or would like to arrange a site visit to discuss possibilities.

We are also looking for sources of green hay from existing meadows to create the new habitats, so please let us know if you would be interested in being involved in this way. We have funding to buy the hay, create the meadows and to support maintenance of the new habitats for the next ten years.

Please contact Alison and Jake through alison.wilkes@severnriverstrust.com. We would love to hear from you.



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Learning to drive in 1966 (and 2024)

Our 16-year-old American grandson Henry is learning to drive in his dad's automatic Volvo in New Jersey. It made me think about my driving test in Stourbridge in August 1966.

When I learnt to drive, lessons cost £1, or 17/6d (87½p) if you had your own car. I used my mother's Triumph Herald convertible.

I had far more lessons than I needed so my driving instructor and I used to pootle around the town, doing the odd three-point-turn or emergency stop. His biggest worry was my difficulty with left and right, which caused me to

go the wrong way up a one-way street on the way to my driving test – not a good start.

All my friends were learning to drive as well and those who had taken their tests warned us about the examiner in the loud check sports jacket. I arrived at the test centre in a state of high anxiety – I was wearing trousers because my instructor thought my skirts were too short; he'd also moved the rear view mirror so I had to duck my head to look in it which he said would prove to the examiner that I was using it, but I thought just looked as though I hadn't adjusted it correctly.

And there he was, Mr Loud Check Sports Jacket himself, waiting for me. We set off and all seemed to be going well. I was expecting him to



Henry and his dad both looking tight-lipped during their first drive together

tell me to stop using hand signals, but after a while he told me to stop using the indicators and just use hand signals for the rest of the test.

I should explain that we all had to learn to use hand signals, which meant opening the window and sticking your arm straight out to turn right, or making a big anticlockwise circle to turn left. Usually you just had to prove that you could do them. My friend Margaret didn't have to do them at all in her test because her examiner had a bad cold and wanted to keep the windows shut.

So having to use hand signals for the whole test seemed like very bad news, especially as the last manoeuvre before arriving back at the test centre was a hill start and a right turn onto a busy main road. I definitely didn't have enough hands for that one!

But despite my misgivings and despite Mr Loud Check Sports Jacket growling at me when I got one of the Highway Code questions wrong, I passed!

So that's a lot of things Henry will never have to worry about – clutch control, changing gear, reversing without a camera, finding his way without a satnav – not to mention those pesky hand signals.

SG

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Hymns, favourite and ...

A recent letter to The Times from an eminent cathedral organist provoked considerable comment. The basic point of his letter was that he disliked the hymn *All things bright and beautiful* as the words were too sentimental and the tune was worse. He thought it had become popular at recent weddings and funerals because so few people attended church regularly and this was a hymn many remembered from junior school. Other hymns were not available.

Letters followed, largely agreeing with the sentiments, but one in particular caught my eye.

The writer referred to the "bicycle hymn", which had caused family mirth over the years:

"And can it be that I should gain ..."

and in the third verse...

*"My chains fell off, my heart was free
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee."*

Chains falling off would slow down any cyclist.

My favourite hymn is *Cwm Rhondda – Guide me O thou great Redeemer*, especially performed by a male voice choir.

At my own wedding my family of regular Methodist chapel-goers who were enthusiastic

(and loud) singers all turned up to sing. But my bride had overruled me in our choice of hymns. Later on in the ceremony the vicar, unprompted, said that he thought we should have chosen *Guide me O thou great Redeemer* as the singing was so good. Hindsight is marvellous!

More recently we attended the funeral of a very dear friend in Merthyr Tydfil where I expected an outpouring of traditional Welsh song. To my surprise hardly anyone sang although my favourite hymn was chosen. I discovered that the family followed soccer and Cardiff City in particular – maybe if they had been rugby fans it would have been different.

Another of my favourite hymns is *"Who would true valour see, let him come hither"* with a later line *"Hobgoblin nor foul fiend can daunt his spirit"*.

This hymn, generally known as *To be a pilgrim*, was written by John Bunyan and appeared in *The Pilgrim's Progress* in 1684, at a time when the Puritans disapproved of music in church. Today it's sung as a hymn the world over. We sang it possibly once a week in school assembly, as did my son 30 years later.

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Teme Valley Wildlife

Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall was filled to the brim back in January, making a great start to the Teme Valley Wildlife Group's 2024 programme. Our first speaker was ornithologist Mike Metcalf who had come to tell us about Worcestershire's ravens. He has been surveying them for some years now, and investigates the size of the county's population by recording bird numbers and nest sites. He knew from our website that ravens were regularly being seen in the Teme valley and hoped to enlist our help in finding them. He had compared the number of monthly sightings in the TVWG's Common Bird Survey with national data from the British Trust for Ornithology and found them to tally exactly.

I, for one, am fascinated by these splendid birds and love to hear their swishing wingbeats if they fly over me as I'm buried in the garden border pulling up weeds. They also sail along to see what's going on when I feed my sheep on winter



mornings. I always wave and call out "Hello ravens!" and am sometimes rewarded by a change of flight path as they come in closer to see who this silly person is. If I'm very, very lucky, there will be a dipped wing or a demonstration of fancy flying to show off "Red Arrow" style aerobatic skills.

At the end of Mike's talk, a queue of fellow raven-spotters formed, keen to tell him about their local birds. So it was that, come April, I had the pleasure of accompanying him down to a wood where I had a strong suspicion that those near me had

built a nest. Mike's hearing was sharply attuned to bird sounds and as the wood came into view he heard their first calls. They were quiet at this point and as I had heard nothing at all I quickly stopped prattling to allow him to judge their location. Then, as we neared the edge of the wood, two ravens took to the air and began a range of different calls. Mike interpreted them for me. Some

Continued on page 24



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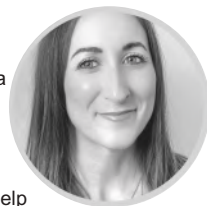
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Continued from page 23

were alarm calls, some were warnings, some told other birds to keep away and some were calls between a nesting pair. To us, there was an obvious "clear off" call.

Once between the trees we started to look up, craning our necks to see into the tallest branches. Ravens prefer to nest in conifer trees and select a

high location which they commonly use again. We soon spotted a twiggy nest with an alert raven standing guard above it. There was no evidence of any young birds, but the presence of two parents and a nest beneath which plant leaves were splashed with bright white guano was evidence enough that the nest was in use. Mike was pleased to record a site previously unknown to him, making it the 36th nest in the county.

If you happen to know of a nest, or a possible location for one, and could take that number higher, please contact Mike at mikebirder@hotmail.com. I'm sure he would be delighted to hear from you.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th June at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Dominique Cragg whose talk is intriguingly entitled "Worcestershire's Rainforests". Members and friends are all welcome, it is just £3 on the door.

Stephanie Mocroft

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at twvg@outlook.com.

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Tenbury Transport Trust

Patron Angela Brinton, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire (Rtd)

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Do you need to travel somewhere? Shopping, medical appointments, visiting friends?

Are you struggling to use public transport?

Or perhaps you don't have access to public transport?

Then we may be able to help

Established as a charity in 2014, Tenbury Transport Trust aims to meet the transport needs of **all ages and abilities** in Tenbury Wells and the surrounding area. We use cars and **wheelchair accessible mini buses** and provide a safe door-to-door service.

It costs just £5 per person per year to become a member so give us a ring today on

01584 810491

Our office is at 34 Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8AA

We are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm

email admin@ttrust.org.uk website www.ttrust.org.uk Follow us on Facebook

If you would like to become part of this amazing organisation as a volunteer please get in touch on 01584 810491

Farm Community Network

Confidential phone line 7am to 11pm

0845 367 9990

Samaritans

01905 21121/0345 909090

Free confidential support and advice

Tenbury & District Carers Support Group

meets on the 4th Wednesday of every
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at Penlu Sports Centre

It's available to support all carers

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email ardy-hwspest@hotmail.co.uk



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What's on in Teme Valley South

June

- 1st Saturday 10th Anniversary Barbecue, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 4pm
1st and 2nd Hollow Meadow Orchid Weekend, Stoke Bliss, 2pm
5th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
6th Thursday D-Day Anniversary Family Fête, Hanley Village Hall, 5pm
8th Saturday Bingo, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6pm
13th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
AGM of Stanford Village Hall Committee, Stanford Village Hall, 8pm
Summer Work Barbecue, Hanley Childe Church, 6pm
16th Sunday Stoke Bliss Open Gardens, 2pm to 5.30pm
20th Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
21st Friday Longest Day Barbecue, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6.30pm
22nd and 23rd Open Garden, Bank Farm, Kyre, 1pm
23rd Sunday Rochford Garden Party, Rochford House, 2pm
25th Tuesday Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
28th Friday Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

July

- 3rd Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
6th Saturday Race Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6pm
Hanley Open Gardens, 11am to 4pm
14th Sunday Rochford Fête, Flower Festival and Fun Dog Show
18th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
28th Sunday Songs of Praise and Strawberry Teas, Hanley Childe Church, 4pm
30th Tuesday Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

August

- 7th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
8th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
10th Saturday Dog Show and Family Summer Barbecue, Hanley Village Hall, 3.30pm
18th Sunday Eastham Fête and Produce Show
27th Tuesday Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the previous month
telephone 07482 482629
or email ronsmum@icloud.com

Deadline for the July issue of TemeTalk is 18th June

**Don't forget – the sooner you send in your copy,
the more likely it is to be included**

Services

June/July 2024

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, contact Rev Julia if you would like to join us. The blessings group meets regularly and is co-ordinated by Richard Skerrett who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for details.

The Church of England has a pre-recorded weekly on-line service which can be found by searching 'Church of England Weekly Services' or accessed on their website www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services

Services Schedule

Sunday 2nd June

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion with Hymns
4.00pm	Stanford	Choral Evensong

Sunday 9th June

10.00am	Hanley Childe	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	Iona Service

Sunday 16th June

10.00am	Eastham	All Age Service and Holy Communion
2.00pm		Walking Church

Sunday 23rd June

10.00am	Rochford	All Age Service and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Stoke Bliss	Evening Prayer

Saturday 29th June

2.00pm	Worcester Cathedral	Rev'd Jen Priesting
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Sunday 30th June

11.00am	Stoke Bliss	Holy Communion
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Sunday 7th July

10.00am	Hartlebury Castle	Deanery Combined Communion
4.00pm	Stanford	Choral Evensong

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